

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Introduction

It has taken me several years to get to the point where I can put this podcast together. I was hoping to start at the beginning of 2020 but due to unforeseen circumstances, I could not. It gives me tremendous pleasure that I have been able to fulfill my promise to those brothers and sisters who have been eagerly waiting for this basic bible podcast. If God gives grace, this program is going to run from **November 2020** until **February 2022**. The **Episode Plan** can be downloaded from <https://biblenearyou.co.za/episodeplan>

The idea is to deliver a basic Bible Study episode every Wednesday. Each episode will last between 20 Minutes and 1 Hour. As the program gains traction and questions begin to flow from listeners, we will introduce an extra **Q&A** episode to help answer all the listener's questions.

Today, we are going to look at the Bible from the aerial view. I will not give you confusing words and try to show you how much I know. The aim is to take you by hand and introduce you to an extraordinary world of scripture.

Who is this bible study for?

This bible study podcast is put together for all Christians, however, those who are well advanced in Biblical knowledge will find it a complete waste of time. It is designed for those who are at the entry-level of Bible. I also believe that this podcast will also benefit those who are not Christians, but who are willing to learn about it. If you have questions about the Bible and you wish to learn more about each book, this podcast is for you.

I must stress that this podcast is provided free of charge. Along with each episode, I shall supply a free lesson outline. If you wish to contribute funds in support of the show, you are welcome to do so but we do not require it.

What is the Bible?

What others believe about the Bible

For many people in different places, the Bible has different meanings. Some people view it as a very good book and to some it is a book of good suggestions. To an atheist, it is a fictional book that is superimposed by the church upon people. To a typical non-Christian African, the Bible is a book written by white people which they used to steal land and oppress people. To many other religions, the Bible is just one of the holy books and carries no special significance over other books. To nominal Christians, the Bible is a fortune cookie kind of thing, where it's verses can be taken and applied off context to help in various situations.

What we believe about the Bible

We (evangelical Christians) believe that the Bible is the word of God inspired, inerrant, immutable, and infallible. We refer to the Bible as the Holy Scriptures and when we mention the terms "Word of God," "the Word" or "the scripture(s)" in the course of this program we would be referring to the Bible except otherwise stated.

- **Inspired** - it is God-breathed or Spirit-filled (**2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 2:19-21**).
- **Inerrant** - it is without error or fault in its teachings. (**John 17:17, Proverb 30:5-6, Psalm 119:160, Matthew 5:17- 18, Psalm 12:6-7, 19:7-9**)
- **Immutable** - cannot change and is well preserved from generation to generation. (**Matthew 5:18, Matthew 24:35, Hebrews 3:7**)
- **Infallible** - it is incapable of being wrong (**Psalm 33:6, Psalm 18:30**)

The Arrangement of the Bible

The word **Bible** is taken from Latin **Biblia**, which was also derived from Greek **Biblio**. In the English language, these fancy words simply mean "**Books**." The Bible was rightly named because, though it appears in our eyes as a single book, it is a collection of different books.

The Bible is a library of 66 books which has been carefully organized for our convenience. There are two main sections in the Bible.

- **The Old Testament**
- **The New Testament**

The Old Testament

This section is made up of 39 books and they are divided into 4 subsections.

The Law	History	Wisdom/Poetry	Prophets
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Johan Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

The New Testament

This section is made up of 27 books and they are grouped into 5 subsections.

The Gospels	History	Pauline Letters	General Letters	Prophecy
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colosians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	Revelation

The Bible is not a fictional book as some would suggest. It is well organized and gives a detailed account of historical events.

Authorship and Dates

The Bible records around 35 known authors who lived in separate times addressing specific issues, which concerned specific audiences. There are several books whose authors are unknown but upon careful study, we can estimate the date and the purpose of their authorship.

The total years of the authorship of the Bible span 1400 years. We shall deal with the authorship dates and locations when we deal with each book in the course of the program.